

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 SAJ-01 /105 W

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R 030810Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 217

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 3731

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: KUO MO-JO DEFENDED

SUMMARY. IN THE CURRENT STAGE OF THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SOME NAMES OF THOSE UNDER ATTACK ARE EMERGING. PEKING'S LEADING INTELLECTUAL AND CCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER KUO MO-JO APPEARS TO BE ONE OF THEM. END SUMMARY.

1. NEW EVIDENCE THAT PEKING'S LEADING INTELLECTUAL KUO MO-JO IS UNDER CRITICISM HAS COME TO THE SURFACE IN AN UNUSUAL PUBLIC DEFENSE OF HIM. AN ARTICLE IN THE HONG KONG COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER WEN WEI PAO APRIL 2 CITES KUO BY NAME AS A STUDENT OF THE CLASSICAL HAN DYNASTY WORK ON SALT AND IRON, AND DECLARES THAT "THE PURPOSE OF MR. KUO'S (KUO LAO) RECOMMENDING ON SALT AND IRON IS CLEAR. IT IS BECAUSE THE BOOK CONTAINS ELEMENTS OF MATERIALISM, REFLECTS THE SPIRIT OF THE LEGALIST SCHOOL IN HISTORY AND HAS A LITERARY VALUE."

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2. THE DISCUSSION OF KUO IS CONTAINED IN THE FINAL PARAGRAPH

OF THE ARTICLE WHICH OTHERWISE MAKES NO MENTION OF HIM NOR GIVES ANY EXPLANATION AS TO WHY THE CONCLUDING NOTE SHOULD BE ON HIM.

3. APPARENTLY KUO'S MOTIVES BEHIND HIS SCHOLARSHIP HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED. HOW AND BY WHOM IS NOT CLEAR. ON SALT AND IRON WAS FAVORABLY DISCUSSED IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE SHANGHAI JOURNAL STUDY AND CRITICISM WHICH SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF THE ANCIENT WORK'S THESIS THAT THE SALT AND IRON INDUSTRIES SHOULD BE TAKEN AWAY FROM LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND BE NATIONALIZED TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR CHINA'S NATIONAL DEFENSE AGAINST A BARBARIAN THREAT FROM THE NORTH.

4. INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER REPORTS HAVE FOR SOME TIME INDICATED CRITICISM OF KUO, BUT ALSO THAT MAO IS PROTECTING HIM. A RECENT RUMOR OF PREPARATIONS TO CRITICIZE KUO WAS REPORTED IN HONG KONG 3261. THE WEN WEI PAO ARTICLE IS ENTITLED "SANG HUNG-YANG AND 'ON SALT AND IRON'" BYLINED TING TSUNG.  
CROSS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, CH, (KUO MO-JO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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